V. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION

K-3  Unconditional Love, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation (primary level – outline)
   II “God Loves Us Unconditionally” (Core)
   III “How Do We Show Love to One Another?” (Core)
   IV “God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive” (Core)
Showing Love
Love Your Neighbor
Showing I’m Sorry
Who is truly Sorry?

4-6  Unconditional Love, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation (upper level – outline)
   II “God Loves Us Unconditionally” (Core)
   III “How Do We Show Love to One Another?” (Core)
   IV “God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive” (Core)
   “Love is...” crossword
   “Love is...” How Am I?
   Understanding Reconciliation
   Cycle of Violence

7-12 Unconditional Love, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation (upper level – outline)
   II “God Loves Us Unconditionally” (Core)
   III “How Do We Show Love to One Another?” (Core)
   IV “God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive” (Core)
   “Love is...” Word Search
   “Love is...” How Am I?
   Understanding Reconciliation
   Cycle of Violence
Right Relationships Concept:

V. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION

Primary Level
Grades K – 3
Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Diocese of Amarillo has instituted the Safe Environment Program for Children and Young People titled: “Right Relationships” to all of our parishes, as part of Safe Environment curriculum in compliance with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops – “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People”.

Please note that no other Children/Minor Safe Environment program other than “Right Relationships” is authorized unless approved, in writing, by the Safe Environment Office. Any other programs, videos, handouts, etc. are not authorized and are to be disposed of accordingly.

This program was developed by the Office of Safe Environment of the Diocese of Salt Lake City, who generously gave us permission to use this program. “Right Relationships” promotes and models safe environment principles and teaches children and minors to recognize and respond to relationships that are not “right.”

“Right Relationship’s” lesson plans are fairly easy to follow. The curriculum is interactive between the catechist and those students present. It requires following the lesson plan and specifically the designated “CORE” lesson and supplementing it with any additional lessons that might be therein.

The “Right Relationship” lesson plans, segment I “Know the Rules” and segment II “Rules & Boundaries” were introduced for the Christian Formation year 2011-2012. For the year 2012-2013 we added segment III “Respect and Trust”, 2014-2015 segment IV “Communication”, and for year 2015-2016 segment V “Unconditional Love”. This lesson plan can be used to supplement lesson segments I-IV or may be used as a standalone lesson. All lesson plans may be adapted to the particular circumstances of the classroom.

Each program has the Spanish Language “CORE” component. Age and grade level appropriate materials, handouts, instructions, dialogue, etc., are available on the Amarillo Diocese’s website under the Safe Environment: www.amarillodiocese.org. Simply run copies of whatever forms are needed for your particular class.

It is the Policy of the Diocese of Amarillo that “October is Safe Environment Month” and every child and minor entered in diocesan/parish/ catholic school programs must attend Safe Environment Training. This must be documented on the “Student Attendance Sheet – Safe Environment Training” and the “Parish Training Report” and forwarded to the Safe Environment Office, 1800 North Spring Street, Amarillo, TX79107, by November 15th and supplemented with additional reports as needed by the parish to ensure full compliance.

Parents who Opt-out must sign the Opt-out form. These parents will be provided with the age appropriate safe environment materials for their child and noted on the Opt-out form. The signed Opt-out forms will be sent with the parish Safe Environment Reports to the Diocesan Safe Environment Office.

Thank you for your past participation in the Safe Environment Program and we ask for your continued support as we implement this curriculum in your parishes and schools.

Dcn. Blaine Westlake
Director of the Safe Environment Office,
Diocese of Amarillo
August 10, 2015
The Diocese of Amarillo gratefully acknowledges the Most Reverend John C. Wester and Colleen Gudreau of the Archdiocese of Salt Lake City, for granting us permission to use their “Right Relationships” Program.

Our appreciation is also extended to the Diocese of Grand Island (Elizabeth A. Heidt Kozisek, Ph.D., Director, Child Protection Office) and the pre-Kindergarten lessons developed by Sarah VanMaren that were used in the development of Right Relationships.
The Catholic Diocese of Amarillo is committed to the protection of children and Young people.

HOW TO REPORT NON-CHURCH RELATED CHILD/SEXUAL ABUSE: If you are a family member, a victim of abuse, or aware of abuse, please contact the following:

Children’s Protective Services  
1-800-252-5400

Your Local Law Enforcement Agency

HOW TO REPORT POSSIBLE CHURCH RELATED CHILD/SEXUAL ABUSE: If you are a family member, a victim of abuse, or aware of such abuse, contact:

Children’s Protective Services  
1-800-252-5400

Your Local Law Enforcement Agency

AND PLEASE CONTACT ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Victim Assistance Coordinator  
Belinda Taylor  
4200 Ridgecrest Drive Suite B-8  
Amarillo, TX 79109  
806-373-5232

Amarillo Diocese  
Rev. John Valdez / Vicar of Clergy  
806-358-2461 Monday-Friday  
806-353-1016 Nights & Weekends

Mailing Address:  
Safe Environment Office  
Catholic Diocese of Amarillo  
1800 North Spring St.  
Amarillo, TX 79107

V. UNCONDITIONAL LOVE, FORGIVENESS and RECONCILIATION

Right Relationships provides children and young people with a foundation for understanding that human relationships are based on God’s unconditional love for us and His desire for each of us to love one another.

Because God loves us unconditionally, he forgives us and wants us to forgive each other; but forgiving others does not mean that we should allow others to hurt us.

Children and young people are encouraged to tell their parents and other trusted adults: if they are being hurt; if someone continues to do something to them after they have asked them to stop; or if someone continues to do something to them after apologizing for doing it.

It is never OK for someone to physically abuse or threaten a child or young person or to pressure him/her to engage in physical contact. When this happens, they need to know to tell a trusted adult so appropriate action can be taken.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Please see the Amarillo Diocese’s Safe Environment Policy, Procedures, Programs, Right Relationships, and other related Safe Environment materials at: www.amarillodiocese.org
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:
- To teach children that God loves us unconditionally.
- To help children understand that Jesus tells us to love God and our neighbors.
- To explain that imposing conditions for love is not what God intended for us.
- To teach children that God forgives us when we are sorry and want us to forgive too.

OUTLINE:
I. Opening Prayer
II. God Loves Us Unconditionally (Core)
III. How Do We Show Love to One Another? (Core)
IV. God Forgives Us and Asks Us to Forgive (Core)
V. Closing Prayer

MATERIALS NEEDED:
- Whiteboard, chalkboard and chalk or flip chart and markers
- Pens, pencils for class members

HANDOUTS:
- K – 1 Grade: “Showing Love”
- 2 – 3 Grades: “Love Your Neighbor”
- K – 3 Grade: “Showing I’m Sorry”
- K – 3 Grade: “Who is Truly Sorry?”

ACTIVITIES:
- “Showing Love”: pens or pencils
- “Love Your Neighbor”: pens or pencils
- “Showing I’m Sorry”: pens or pencils
- “Who is Truly Sorry?”: pens or pencils
I. OPENING PRAYER (Psalm 139: 13-14)

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
“Jesus, you teach us that God loves us. We thank you for the love you give us each day. Help us to love God above all things and love each other as you love us.” Amen.

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

II. GOD LOVES US UNCONDITIONALLY (CORE)

Discussion

Say:
God is love.
God loves us.
God does not say, “I love you because…” or “I’ll love you if…”
God loves us unconditionally.
God wants us to love him with our whole heart, soul, and strength.
God wants us to love each other in the same way he loves us.

• Say: “Jesus shows us how to love God and each other. Jesus tells us to love God unconditionally and to love each other just as he, Jesus, loves us. How did Jesus show his love? Jesus showed his unconditional love for his Father by doing what his Father asked him to do. What did he do? He freely offered up his life for us so that our sins could be forgiven and we could have a relationship with God. Through his obedience and sacrifice, Jesus also shows God’s unconditional love for us. Because of God’s love and forgiveness, we can have a relationship with God as a beloved son or daughter and we can have a relationship with each other as brothers or sisters in Christ.”

• Say: “There is nothing we can do to earn or deserve God’s love. Through our baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him. This means we should love God and each other unconditionally. This means we should not try to make anyone do something special to deserve our love nor should we ever have to “prove” our love to someone else.
  ➢ No one has to look or dress a certain way to deserve to be loved.
  ➢ No one has to do what we ask of them to deserve to be loved.
  ➢ No one has to be famous or popular or talented to deserve to be loved.”

Say: “Every person deserves to be loved because God made them and loves them.”
• **Say:** “If someone says to us:
  ➢ I will not play with you if you do not do what I want’ or
  ➢ ‘I only love you because you are (pretty, or strong, or smart)’ or
  ➢ You have to prove to me that you deserve to be my friend’
  ➢ These messages do NOT express unconditional love. They are not what God wants for us.”

III. **HOW DO WE SHOW LOVE TO ONE ANOTHER? (CORE)**

**Discussion**

• **Ask:** “How do we show the love we have for one another?” Write the answers on the white board. If ‘forgiveness’ is not specifically mentioned, suggest it as a way of showing our love.”

• **Say:** “We show love in many ways:
  ➢ we show respect for one another;
  ➢ we use kind words;
  ➢ we follow the rules;
  ➢ we pray for one another;
  ➢ we pray together;
  ➢ we help others;
  ➢ we forgive each other.”

**Activities**

**Grades K - 1: “Showing Love”**

Circle the pictures that show love.

**Grades 2 - 3: “Love your Neighbor”**

Check the boxes of ways you can show love. Discuss.

• **Ask:** “What are some other ways you can show your love?”

IV. **GOD FORGIVES US AND ASKS US TO FORGIVE (CORE)**

**Discussion**

**Say:** “Through Baptism, we belong to Jesus and should try to be like him. Throughout his life, Jesus forgave the sins of many people. When he was dying on the cross, he forgave the thief who was sorry for what he had done. Even though they were not sorry for their actions, Jesus even asked his Father to forgive the people who crucified him.”
Jesus wants us to be sorry when we do something wrong and ask the forgiveness of the person or persons we have hurt.

- Jesus also wants us to forgive others when they hurt us even if they are not sorry for what they have done.”

- **Say:** “God forgives us and asks us to forgive others. When we are sorry for our sins and ask God to forgive us, God does forgive us. God asks us to do the same thing for other people. Forgiving others can be hard but we can pray for God’s help to forgive others like God forgives us.”

### Activities

**K – 3: “Showing I’m Sorry”**

- Have the students circle the persons who are showing they are sorry. Discuss: giving a present; praying; being charitable; making a valentine; writing an apology.

**K – 3: “Who is Truly Sorry?”**

- Discuss the pictures as follows:
  
  - **Say:** “These children were asked to clear the snow from the front porch. They played in the snow instead. One of them was sorry for not completing the chore.” **Ask:** “Can you tell which one? How can you tell?”
  
  - **Say:** “These boys were asked to help clean up.” **Ask:** “Which one is doing something to make things ‘right’? How can you tell?”
  
  - **Say:** “These children played in the leaves instead of raking them up as their parents asked.” **Ask:** “Which one is trying not to sin again? How can you tell?”

### V. CLOSING PRAYER

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name;
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

In the + Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.
Showing Love
Directions: Circle the pictures which show love.
Love Your Neighbor

Directions: Check the boxes of ways you can show love. Then, add your own.

- [ ] Helping.
- [ ] Sharing.
- [ ] Using kind words.
- [ ] Playing together.
- [ ] Praying.
- [ ] Following the rules.
- [ ] Sharing my thoughts and feelings.

- [ ] ____________________________
- [ ] ____________________________
- [ ] ____________________________
- [ ] ____________________________
Showing I am Sorry

Directions: Circle the ways you can show you are truly sorry.
Who is Truly Sorry?

These children were asked to clear the snow from their front porch. They played in the snow instead. One of them was sorry that they didn’t complete their chore. Can you tell which one? How do you know?

These boys didn’t help clean up their mess. Which one is doing something to “make things right?”

These children played in the leaves instead of raking them up as their parents asked. Which one is trying not to sin again?